

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: 5TH COMMITTEE: FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT
RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. DOCUMENT A/C.5/31/61 OF DECEMBER 2, 1976 PROVIDES THE
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION 2 APPROVED BY
THE THIRD COMMITTEE AND CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/31/273.
THE 5TH COMMITTEE DOCUMENT PROVIDES AN ESTIMATE FOR A
CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO BE
HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA FOR TWO WEEKS IN 1978. TOTAL COSTS ARE
ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 445,000 DOLLARS, OR 511,000
DOLLARS IF ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICES ARE INCLUDED. IT IS
PROPOSED THAT HALF THIS AMOUNT BE DEFRAIDED FROM THE REGULAR
BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. DESPITE OUR POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT AS STATED
IN THE 10TH MEETING OF THE 3RD COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 6, 1976
BY AMBASSADOR MYERSON, USDEL SHOULD CAST NEGATIVE
VOTE ON THIS SUBJECT. THE DELEGATION SHOULD MAKE
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A STRONG STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF ANY

UN REGULAR BUDGET FUNDS BEING USED TO SUPPORT CONFERENCES AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS. THE STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) RESOLUTION 2609 (XXIV) CLEARLY STATES THAT ANY CONFERENCE HELD AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS WILL REQUIRE THE HOST COUNTRY TO DEFRAID ALL ADDITIONAL COSTS. WE SUPPORT THIS CONCEPT COMPLETELY AS IT GOES TO THE HEART OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEADQUARTERS UN FACILITIES. SPECIFICALLY HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES PROVIDE THE INFRA-STRUCTURE OF CLERICAL, TRANSLATION, DOCUMENTATION, PRINTING AND RELATED ASPECTS OF CONFERENCE SERVICING.

B. PROVISION OF FULL CONFERENCE SERVICES AT OTHER LOCATIONS INVOLVES TREMENDOUS UNNECESSARY WASTE OF RESOURCE AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

C. THE NORMAL STAFFING COSTS ARE INCREASED BY TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE, START UP COSTS AND CONFERENCE CLOSING COSTS.

D. DUPLICATION OF SECRETARIAT STAFF IS COSTLY, AND AN ADVERSE MORALE FACTOR.

E. SECRETARIAT STAFF ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCES AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS MUST NECESSARILY BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH CONFERENCE MATTERS; THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE NORMAL ONGOING ACTIVITIES WHICH CONSTITUTE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF WORK OUTPUT AT THE HEADQUARTERS LOCATION.

3. THE OBJECTIONS PERCEIVED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE BECOME MORE SERIOUS AS MORE "AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS" CONFERENCES ARE ENVISAGED. EVERY EXAMPLE OF UN REGULAR BUDGET FUNDING OF SUCH CONFERENCES IMPLIES A GROWING NUMBER OF FUTURE CONFERENCES AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS. ROBINSON

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